

Senate File 243 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 243
BY COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1048)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act expanding the definition of alternate energy production
2 facility for purposes of compliance with electric utility
3 rate regulation requirements.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 476.42, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code
2 2011, is amended to read as follows:

3 a. A solar, wind turbine, waste management, resource
4 recovery, refuse-derived fuel, agricultural crops or residues,
5 or woodburning facility. For purposes of this definition only,
6 "waste management" includes a facility using plasma gasification
7 to produce synthetic gas, either as a stand-alone fuel or for
8 blending with natural gas, the output of which is used to
9 generate electricity or steam. For purposes of this definition
10 only, "plasma gasification" means the thermal dissociation
11 of carbonaceous material into fragments of compounds in an
12 oxygen-starved environment.

13 EXPLANATION

14 This bill expands the definition of an "alternate energy
15 production facility" for purposes of compliance with electric
16 utility rate regulation requirements.

17 Provisions contained in Code sections 476.43 and 476.44
18 require electric utilities to either own alternate energy
19 production facilities or small hydro facilities located
20 in Iowa or enter into long-term contracts to purchase or
21 wheel electricity from such facilities, or provide for the
22 availability of supplemental or backup power to such facilities
23 on a nondiscriminatory basis and at just and reasonable rates.

24 Currently, the applicable definition of "alternate energy
25 production facility" in Code section 476.42 references
26 solar, wind turbine, waste management, resource recovery,
27 refuse-derived fuel, agricultural crops or residues, or
28 woodburning facilities. The bill specifies that for purposes
29 of this definition, "waste management" includes a facility
30 using plasma gasification to produce synthetic gas, either
31 as a stand-alone fuel or for blending with natural gas, the
32 output of which is used to generate electricity or steam. The
33 bill further specifies that "plasma gasification" means the
34 thermal dissociation of carbonaceous material into fragments of
35 compounds in an oxygen-starved environment.